

Deborah Grant
827 Kolding Avenue
Solvang, CA 93463
debgrant@sbceo.org

I am a speech pathologist and work with children and adults with compromised speech abilities. If we want these children to grow up to be independent adults they need to be able to communicate over the phone. Our programs attempt to give our young adults leaving the schools as much independence as possible. Many of them are capable of living alone if they have a connection with the outside world. Without Speech to Speech they would have no way to communicate over the telephone. Their speech is such that an average person would not be able to understand them. Speech to Speech should be a national service that allows adults to communicate over the telephone.

- Operators need to stay on the call long enough to get used to the way the PERSON with a speech disability talks.
- Operators should tell callers that everything is confidential.
- People with a speech disability need an easy way to reach Speech-To-Speech.
- The FCC must stop people in jails from abusing STS.
- More people with speech disabilities need to be taught to use STS.
- All these statements also apply to people who use STS on the computer.
- STS should be a national service; also there should be competition, as that makes STS work better.
- The operators need to be paid enough so that they do a good job, and they need good training.